Federal Disaster Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

U.S. Small Business Administration - Area 3 Disaster Office - 14925 Kingsport Road - Fort Worth, TX 76155 - 1-800-366-6303

DATE: August 15, 2003 CONTACT: Michael Lampton Release Number: 03-253 817-868-2300

SBA ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR DISASTER VICTIMS

FORT WORTH, TX -- Businesses in some Louisiana parishes, Arkansas and Texas counties have until **September 15, 2003** to file applications for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available for businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers sustaining crop losses due to excessive rain that occurred September 16, 2002, and continuing. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible for these SBA loans. Businesses in the following parishes and counties are eligible to apply:

Louisiana:

Allen Concordia Madison St. Martin Avovelles De Soto **Tensas** Morehouse Beauregard East Carroll Natchitoches Union Bienville East Feliciana Ouachita Vermillion Bossier Franklin Pointe Coupee Vernon West Baton Rouge Caddo Grant Rapides Calcasieu Iberville Red River West Carroll

Caldwell Jackson Richland West Feliciana

Cameron Jefferson Davis Sabine Winn

Catahoula La Salle St. Landry

Arkansas:

Ashley Chicot Union

Texas:

Jefferson Orange Shelby

Newton Panola

Applications and further information can be obtained by calling the SBA toll-free at 1-800-366-6303 or TDD 817-267-4688 for the hearing impaired.

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These loans are intended to assist businesses in offsetting working capital losses which they suffered as a result of the severe weather reducing the crop income of the area farmers and ranchers. Small businesses claiming to have been physically injured by the disaster are not eligible.

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For more information about the SBA Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov/disaster.